

...A Great Texas Enterprise...

The Most Elaborate State History Ever Attempted

...In this Country Finally Completed, After...

Four Years of Patient Labor and the Expenditure of Over \$16,000.

"TEXAS occupies a place unique in the history of American States. Since her discovery six different governments have claimed her allegiance. Six different flags have in turn waved over her in token of sovereignty. Her breezes have fanned the 'Lilies of France,' the Royal Banner of Spain and the Tri-Color of the Republican Mexico. Her sunlight has kissed the Lone Star emblem of her own independent sovereignty and the Stars and Stripes of the American Union. For four eventful years, amid the smoke of battle, she upheld the Stars and Bars of the Southern Confederacy." Believing that no work heretofore published has done full justice to the remarkable history of this remarkable land, I began in 1893 the collection of material for a very exhaustive publication to be issued upon a new plan and in a manner never before attempted in a State history. The perfected work is now ready and I offer here a synopsis which will give a fair idea of the scope and character of the publication and the general plan upon which it has been prepared and published.

Part One—Yoakum's History of Texas.

As a nucleus around which to build I acquired from the heirs of Henderson Yoakum the right to republish "Yoakum's History of Texas," and it forms part one of this new work. The reappearance of this rare old work will be hailed with satisfaction by all old Texans. From the date of its first publication it has easily held first place in their esteem. It is indeed a classic and shows the work of a scholar and a careful student of historical annals. In preparing it Mr. Yoakum had the invaluable aid of his warm personal friend, General Sam Houston, and the use of his public and private papers and correspondence. His history covers the period down to annexation in 1845. It was published in 1855, but only a limited number were printed when the plates were accidentally destroyed by fire and Mr. Yoakum dying soon after they were never remade. For that reason the work never had a general circulation and it has been rare, costly and hard to obtain. It is reproduced here word for word as it was in the original text, is enclosed in much handsomer binding and is embellished and beautified with hundreds of half-tone illustrations. A feature which will accompany the Yoakum text in this new work will be a series of commentaries which were written in 1883 by Major Moses Austin Bryan and Colonel Frank W. Johnson, but never published. They are the personal recollections of these two noted men of the scenes and incidents described by Yoakum and are here published as foot notes.

The Colonial Period, the Revolution and the Republic, 1820 to 1845.

In the twenty-five years between 1820 and 1845 occurred the American colonization of Texas, the revolution, the fall of the Alamo, the massacre of Goliad, the war for independence, the founding of the Republic and the government of the infant Nation up to the time Texas became a State in the American Union. The thrilling annals of these historic years have never been fully written. The most abundant and the most valuable sources of information have never before been available to the historian. The authors of the various chapters covering the events of this period are Colonel Guy M. Bryan, Judge Seth Shepard, the late Governor J. W. Throckmorton, Mrs. Adele Briscoe Looscan and Mrs. Kate Scurry Terrell. Colonel Bryan is a nephew of Stephen F. Austin, the great empresario. He is the custodian of the Austin manuscripts, the most voluminous and valuable collection of historical documents in the State. He also obtained from Hon. A. W. Terrell the privilege of using the manuscript of Colonel Frank W. Johnson's History of Texas, which is in Mr. Terrell's charge. Colonel Bryan had at his command a vast fund of invaluable data never before available to any historian. He is a forceful writer, a conscientious chronicler and a master of the subject he treats. His work is one of the most important contributions to Texas history ever penned. It includes sketches of Moses Austin and Stephen F. Austin. A very exhaustive and detailed account of the American colonization of Texas. The mode of living of the colonists, their houses, dress, daily occupations and amusements. The Fredonian war. The campaign of the Texan army under Austin and Burleson in 1835. The reports, letters and speeches of Austin, his last days and his private and public character. The siege and fall of the Alamo, by Judge Seth Shepard, will prove an interesting feature of this section of the work. The sketch is illustrated with diagrams and is of great historical value. Governor Throckmorton's account of the settlement of Northern Texas is incorporated with Colonel Bryan's chapters on colonization. The women of pioneer days and domestic and social life in the periods of the colonies, the revolution and the Republic is a chapter of rare interest from the pen of Mrs. Adele Briscoe Looscan. In revealing a wilderness and founding a nation women are an important factor. They were in Texas. With the exception of an occasional reference to their sufferings they are rarely mentioned by the historian. Mrs. Looscan has gracefully redeemed this history, by writing an entertaining sketch of the noble women and the royal life of pioneer days. The "Runaway Scrape," that terrible flight of men, women and children before the invading Mexicans in 1836, an incident of the war for independence, full of tragedy, pathos and humor, is graphically described by Mrs. Kate Scurry Terrell. These chapters supplementary to the more extended work of Colonel Bryan and Mr. Yoakum fill out part two and bring the history down to annexation in 1845.

The Political, Legislative and Judicial History of the State of Texas from 1845 to 1897.

(By O. N. Roberts.)

The second volume deals directly with the State of Texas from the time it joined the American Union in 1845 to the close of 1897. The annals of the last fifty years are filled with the exploits of a race of able, vigorous and independent statesmen and jurists. The story of their work is here told in detail by one who was himself an active participant in the scenes which he describes. The author is ex-Governor O. N. Roberts and the contribution is worthy of the man and the subject. The title is THE POLITICAL, LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL HISTORY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS FOR FIFTY YEARS. It is terse, accurate, complete and absolutely impersonal and impartial. Governor Roberts spent many months at Austin in compiling his data from the archives and records of the government, his own private collection of memoranda, correspondence, manuscripts and books covering the period discussed is the most complete and systematic in existence and his personal knowledge and recollection of public men and of political, legislative and judicial affairs in Texas are profound and phenomenal. He came to the then Republic in 1841 and was soon made a district attorney in Eastern Texas, where he came in contact with all the leading men of that era. He was one of the first district judges of the State after annexation; was afterwards for many years an associate justice of the supreme court before the war and active leader in the secession movement, president of the secession convention in 1861, a colonel in the Confederate army, chief justice of the supreme court then, one of the United States senators in reconstruction times, again chief justice for many years, when he was elected to the governorship in 1875 and again in 1880, and finally he closed his active public career as professor of law in the State University. With such an experience and equipment it is readily apparent that Governor Roberts is peculiarly competent for the task he has so creditably performed. A marked characteristic of his history is its absolute judicial fairness in the discussion of men and measures. It reads like a statement of facts from a judge, with the added charm of a quaint and forcible style and a fund of quiet humor, philosophy and reminiscences. This part of the new work embraces three hundred and twenty-eight pages, nearly as much as the whole of Yoakum's original text—and there is not a superfluous line in it.

Fifty Years of Social, Educational, Religious and Industrial Growth is the closing chapter in this very exhaustive history of the State. It is devoted to a general review of the advance made by the State during its half century of Statehood. It includes a short sketch of antecedent periods. It is prepared by Dudley G. Wooten and is a fitting finale to the splendid volumes. At the end of this chapter are over thirty statistical tables giving in tabulated form the exact statistics of each important subject discussed—political, financial, economic, agricultural, educational, religious, social, criminal, commercial, industrial and those pertaining to railroads and railroad traffic.

Special Articles.

An absolutely complete history of any land is impossible in a narration of events, no matter how exhaustive. There are special topics which require independent and individual treatment by historical specialists. This method of preparing extended histories is now much in vogue and is approved by the ablest authors, by the reading public and the historical student. I am satisfied that the following special articles will be found one of the most valuable features of this great work.

Annexation and the Mexican War.

(By General Sam Bell Maxey.)

In two chapters General Maxey presents an accurate and full account of the annexation of Texas to the American Union and the war with Mexico which followed. Chapter I is a history of the diplomatic and official transactions attending the annexation of the Republic of Texas to the Union of American States, the political aspects of the question in the United States, the attitude of Texas, the interest and relation of foreign nations toward the sub-

ject, the final triumph of annexation and the terms of the compact.

Chapter II is a succinct narrative of the causes, progress, success and results of the war with Mexico, with a notice of the part taken therein by Texan troops. This was the last literary work done by Senator Maxey before his death, and his special fitness for this character of writing is well illustrated in these pages.

The Texas Land System, Policy, Titles and Legislation.

(By Dudley G. Wooten.)

"The History of the Texas Land System—Spanish, Mexican and American." It is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the land policy and titles under Spanish and Mexican rule, and the second with the system of titles, course of legislation and mode of dealing with lands, public and private, under the Republic and State. The subject is a difficult and technical one, but is here treated in a popular and historical style, and the whole topic is so thoroughly discussed and developed that the hitherto confused ideas that have prevailed in regard to Texas lands and land titles are completely dispelled. This treatise is in itself almost an epitome of Texas history.

The Educational System, the University and the Schools.

(By J. J. Lane.)

The particular pride of the Lone Star State is her splendid system of free public education from the primary schools to the highest achievements of university culture. She is especially proud of the fact that her enterprise in this direction is not a merely imitative impulse excited by modern sentiment, but that in 1836, when she declared her independence of Mexico, it was one of the specific grounds of grievance that free public instruction was not provided for her children. She founded the system with the first organization of an independent government and she has nurtured it with magnificent liberality from that day to this. The history of this great educational movement and the institutions it has developed is here given in detail.

Physical Geography, Geology and Natural Resources.

(By E. T. Dumble.)

The history and capabilities of a people are inseparably connected with the physical surroundings amid which they are developed. The paramount influence of climate, geographical location, resources of the soil and the general environment of natural agencies operating to mould and modify human and historical growth and activity, can never be logically omitted from the consideration of any competent historian. Hence with great propriety there has been included in this work an exhaustive scientific and particular description of all these factors of Texas developments.

The Ranger Service and The Rangers.

(By General W. H. King.)

The romantic and thrilling story of that unique service that is known the wide world over, "The Rangers," is entertainingly narrated. Beginning with the old time volunteer scouts and border knights whose daring exploits first gave name and notoriety to the Texas Rangers, the history of their gradual development into a regular organized and regularly efficient frontier and police force is sketched with appreciative vigor and skill. Examples of their splendid daring, consummate tact, untiring vigilance and real worth as men and soldiers are related and a philosophic estimate of their function and performance as a military power is clearly presented.

The Texas Press.

(By A. C. Gray.)

The rise and growth of public journalism in Texas are fully traced by a veteran journalist. The subject is analytically handled beginning with the feeble efforts of the colonial newspapers following the gradual development of the press under the excitement of revolutionary times, then the leading papers of the Republic are discussed and the whole field of the State press is covered to the present time. Interesting biographical sketches of the leading editors and publishers are given from Horatio Bigelow down.

The History and Evolution of the Texas Flag.

(By Mrs. Adele Briscoe Looscan.)

A description of the various flags used by the early commands of Texas troops, the gradual evolution of the Lone Star flag, the flags used at the Alamo, San Jacinto, Goliad, Velasco and other places, the National standard of the republic, the naval flag, the State flag and coat of arms, with a colored design showing all the standards and emblems used by Texas and Texans in the development of the present flag.

Texas and Texans in the Civil War.

In proportion to population Texas furnished more troops to the armies of the late war in the United States than any State in the Union. Their heroism was approved in every campaign and in almost every battle of the struggling Confederacy, and their history ought to be chronicled in pages of light and canonized in monuments of "endurable brass." To adequately follow and describe the military operations in which the Texans distinguished themselves would require volumes rather than chapters. It is not attempted here to give the full story of their countless deeds or to celebrate in detail the chivalric achievements of all their splendid campaigns, battles and triumphs, but enough is given to furnish a fair estimate of the variety, importance and value of the service rendered by Texas to the Southern armies. Most of it is entirely new and all of it will be found intensely interesting. The following list of the chapters in this department of the history indicates the scope of its contents: "Military Events and Operations in Texas and Along the Coast and Border, 1861-1865," (compiled from various sources); "The Service of Texan Troops in the Armies of the Southern Confederacy," (compiled by Charles I. Evans and including a complete roster of all Texas organizations); "Hood's Texas Brigade," by Mrs. A. V. Winkler; "Terrell's Texas Brigade," by Kate Scurry Terrell; "Green's Brigade," by J. H. McLeary; "Granbury's Brigade," by O. P. Bowser.

The Index.

It has been said that the proof of a book is the preface. Certainly the glory and utility of a book like this are in its Index. There is nothing so annoying, so positively exasperating, as a large and valuable work without an adequate and accurate index. Fortunately the editor has supplied that prime requisite in this history. Each volume is separately indexed, the work has been done in a painstaking manner, and the references are full, intelligent, complete and correct. There are none of the confusing cross references that bewilder and tantalize the reader who is in a hurry to find what he wants.

Illustrations.

This Work is Magnificently Illustrated.

It contains the portrait of every prominent man in the annals of Texas from the earliest to the latest times, and pictures of all noted scenes and localities, a number of good maps and a fac simile of the TEXAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. There are a vast number of such illustrations and their collection was a labor of infinite detail, patience and investigation. It required years and the sending of thousands of letters, some of them to distant States, and the expense itself of gathering them was very considerable. But the production was deemed of sufficient importance to warrant the outlay of time, labor and money.

This monumental contribution to the literature of Texas History, the spirit of Texas civilization and culture and the sources of Texas pride and patriotism, entitles the enterprise to the substantial encouragement of every liberal and loyal Texan. It is a Texas enterprise, projected by Texan pride and courage, written by Texas authors, exhaustive of Texan annals, paid for with Texan funds, and it deserves to be sustained, endorsed and thoroughly applauded by Texan patronage. That it will be there can be little doubt when its merits are properly known. It will take rank as by all means the most satisfactory, the most comprehensive, the most authentic chronicle of the greatest State in the American Union, that has ever been conceived or executed.

Respectfully,

...William G. Scarff.

This work will be handled for me by

THE TEXAS HISTORY CO., 301 Commerce St., Dallas, Texas.

Correspondence Solicited.